

MADISON COUNTY LEPC
(Local Emergency Planning Committee)
Meeting Minutes: January 18th, 2007

In Attendance:

Joe G. Husar Harrison, QRU & VFD
Scott McClintic, MVRFD
Shawn Christensen, MVRFH and MC S&R
Jane Yecny, RVAS, RVH, MC S&R
Sue Criswell, RVH
Frank Ford, Independent Consulting
Melinda Tichenor, MVH – CCC
Wayne Redfield, Twin Bridges CCC
Steve Orr, MCSO, VCVFD, MVRFD
Julie Johnson, Montana Heritage Commission
Jamie Davis, MVH
Doris Fischer, MC Planning Office
Roger Williams, VC Fire Chief
Jill Steely, MC Public Health
Karen Brown, MC GIS/IT, RV S&R

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEPC WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:05 P.M., BY CHAIRMAN JOE HUSAR. JOE BRIEFED THE GROUP ON THE STATUS OF FORMER CHAIRMAN LEWIS STAHL'S CONDITION. HE THEN REQUESTED THAT ALL ATTENDEES, MANY OF WHOM WERE HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME, STAND AND IDENTIFY THEMSELVES.

THE CHAIRMAN CALLED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE 16 NOVEMBER 2006 MEETING. A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCOTT MCLINTIC TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE MINUTES. MELINDA TICHENOR SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

Committee Reports:

Chairman Husar called for the first item on the agenda.

Citizens Corp Council Report (M. Tichenor)

Melinda reported that a successful CERT training had been held in Ennis during January with eleven attendees. Traffic Control training for CERT graduates and interested responders, which were scheduled for January, will be rescheduled at a later date due to an incident which arose that prevented carrying out the scheduled training. She continued by explaining that the CCC will, in all likelihood, not receive any federal funding after January 31, 2007. Her group is concentrating on refining the mission statement and business plans under which they are operating, and on developing alternative funding to keep the program going, including seeking financial support from the Board of Commissioners. Steve Orr moved that the LEPC formally recommend to the Commissioners that they budget support funds for continuation of the CCC program. Scott seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Emergency Management Dept. Report (F. Ford)

Frank Ford reported that Chris Mumme, the new Director of Emergency Management was ill and could not attend this meeting. Chris has not prepared a written report, as is customary, and asked Frank to represent him, which he did with a brief verbal report.

Old Business

Continuation of Subdivision Review Discussion

The Committee continued discussion of proposed changes to the county subdivision regulations. Joe summarized how the review process takes place and sketched the development of the Emergency Management Department's involvement in the process, along with his participation as Risk Mitigation Coordinator for the department. Frank stressed the need to complete the LEPC's review and recommendations for change by spring, in order to allow the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners to take action by July. Doris informed the Committee that there is legislation being introduced during the current session regarding zoning in the wildland/urban interface that could affect these matters. Frank said that he knows of a website that makes it easy to keep informed of the progress of legislation of interest and said that he would provide the address to the Chairman, the Planner and the Director of Emergency Management.

Disaster & Emergency Plan Annexes & Resource List

Frank said that, having received no further comments, Chris considers that the Communications Annex has received LEPC approval. He went on to say that drafts of the Flooding Annex and the Special Needs Annex are posted on the county web-site. LEPC members are encouraged to review them and provide comments to Chris so they can be completed and made a part of the Disaster and Emergency Plan as soon as possible. Melinda and the CERT members are reviewing the draft County Resource List that Frank has provided as a rough draft. She reported that they hope to have the names and numbers, etc. verified soon, so that the list can become a useful tool in the event of an emergency.

Big Sky Public Safety Planning Study (BSPSPS)

Frank reported that the final report has been presented to the Commissioners by Firescope Mid-America in public session in December. He summarized the results of the study as saying that, although the arrangements need "tweaking" and refining, the essence of the study's conclusion was that, because of lack of infrastructure and operational capability, Madison County would continue to need to rely heavily on Gallatin County resources to provide public safety services in Big Sky for at least the next couple of years. Enhanced communications and dispatching capability to the area; development of a true EOC with the construction of the courthouse addition and new law and justice center; and other similar developments would make review of the situation in tow to three years likely. The study also provided a number of recommendations relative to the way law enforcement is being contracted to Gallatin County, and these will, in all likelihood, be a part of contract negotiations scheduled for this spring.

New Business

Montana Heritage Commission Grant Application

Julie Johnson briefed the LEPC on her agency's application for a PDMC grant for Daylight Creek and the Brewery area of Virginia City. She also noted that Nevada City is listed on the approved PDM, yet had never signed off on that document. Frank expressed surprise that Nevada City, which is not an incorporated town would be listed on the approval page, noted that the PDM and a subsequent update had been approved through the State and Federal level, He said he would bring the matter to the new Director's attention.

Schedule next meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LEPC will be in Virginia City, Montana at the Courthouse on February 15, 2007, @ 7:00 PM. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.